

**Utility Patent
Ser. No. 10/585,776**

REMARKS

The Office Action mailed December 26th, 2007 has been both received and reviewed. By the present invention, Claims 1-11 are pending, Claims 1, 2, 4, 6, 7, 10 and 11 are amended and Claims 3 and 8 are canceled. No new matter is introduced.

Specification

Examiner objects to the specification for failing to conform to the proper language and format for an abstract of the disclosure. Applicant has amended the abstract to comply with the requirements set forth in MPEP § 608.01(b) and 37 C.F.R. 1.72.

Furthermore, Examiner objects to the disclosure because of language informalities. Applicant has amended the specification to remedy the informalities. Withdrawal of the objection is respectfully requested.

Claim Objections

Examiner objects to claims 1-4, 6-8, 10 and 12 for containing informalities. Applicant has amended the claims to overcome the above named objections. Withdrawal of the objections is respectfully requested.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

Examiner rejects claims 1-11 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which Applicant regards as the invention.

With regard to claim 1, Examiner states that it is unclear whether the entire surface of each of the respective projections and slots is conical. Applicant wishes to clarify any confusion with reference to Fig. 3, which depicts a sectional view of a projection and a corresponding slot. Claim 1 reads that the mating

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surfaces of the projections and corresponding slots are conical, which is not to be confused with the entire surface of each projection and corresponding slot being conical. ("...characterized in that the surfaces of the projections edges and the surfaces of the slots bottoms mating therewith are embodied in the form of cones..") Each of the mating surfaces (depicted by elements 7 and 8 in Fig. 3) is angled such that the cross-section of each projection and slot has a conical shape. Furthermore, the angled surfaces are complementary and thus the mating projection and a corresponding bulb can interlock.

Applicant has amended claims 7 and 12 to exclude the trademark / trade name from the claim language. Withdrawal of the rejections is respectfully requested.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

Claims 4 and 5 stand rejected under 35 USC § 102(b) as being anticipated by Polytech (FR 2 815 678).

Applicant has amended the claims to remedy the indicated grounds for rejection. Namely, applicant has included the subject matter of claim 8, which the Examiner found allowable, to further limit the teachings of claims 4 and 5. Withdrawal of the rejections is respectfully requested.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

Claims 1-7 and 9-11 stand rejected under 35 USC § 103(a) as rendered unpatentable over hunting Engineering (GB 2 221 273) in view of Polytech.

Applicant has amended the above claims to remedy the indicated grounds for rejection. Namely, applicant has included the subject matter of claim 8, which the Examiner found allowable, to further limit the teachings of the independent claims. The amended base claim teaches a benefit not provided in prior art. While the patent to Polytech recites a joint for flat parts having two mating sides, it does not disclose how the two sides interact to form the joint. Furthermore, although the patent to

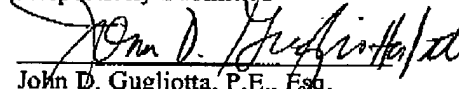
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Hunting Engineering also teaches a joint for flat parts with an angled mating surface, it does not teach whether the parts are assembled by aligning the slots of one piece with the projections of another, and rotating the pieces until the conical surfaces of the projections meet the conical surfaces of the slots, thus arranging the two mating parts in the same plane. The characteristics of the joint which define the assembly process distinguish the present invention over the cited prior art. Withdrawal of the rejections is respectfully requested.

CONCLUSION

In view of the amendments submitted herein and the above comments, it is believed that all the grounds of rejection are overcome and that the application has now been placed in full condition for allowance. Should there be any further questions, Examiner is urged to telephone Applicant's undersigned attorney at (330) 659-0065.

Respectfully Submitted


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